

County of Middlesex
Office of Workforce Development
One Stop Operations/WorkFirst Collaborative Meeting
550 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
WIA Conference Room B - December 4, 2014 – 1:30 PM

Attendees: Baden Almonor, George Brokaw, Roseann Bucciarelli, Shaaron Crossland, Janice Fishbein, Patricia Foster, Shelia Frazer, Carla Ghee, Sherri Goldberg, Sharon Hartman, Kevin Kurdziel, Dawn Lystad, Chanda McCoy, Lori Miranda, Luis Ortega, Bobbin Paskell, Julie Piano, Regina Riccioni, John Ross, Miriam Ruiz, Diane Seavers, Michelle Suskind, Timothy Timberlake, Linda Urbach, Jean Zwingli

Staff: Helina K. Wisniewski, Secretary

Julie Piano called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 7, 2014 One Stop Operations Committee were presented for approval. John Ross made a motion for the approval of the minutes of the October 7, 2015 meeting. Baden Almonor seconded and the motion carried.

Funding for Program Year 2014 – Julie Piano

Thus far, we have served 42% of the required numbers for PY'2014.

UI Update – Carla Ghee

The office pace is still slow. It was busy during Thanksgiving and likely it will be busy during Christmas. Julie stated the statistics for the unemployment rate is 6.6% in New Jersey for October, 2014.

Literacy/High School Equivalency - Tim Timberlake

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was received today to implement the McGraw Hill testing for January 2015. The month of January testing is presently on hold and will not take any new testers until the MOU is completed. McGraw Hill has placed a hold on the new forms D, E & F due to issues and feedback on the forms. They will respond by December 17, 2014.

A statistical report is available which provides information on TABE testing, scores, obtaining correspondence, etc. If anyone is interested in reading this report, please send an email to Tim at timothy_timberlake@nbps.k12.nj.us.

WIOA – New Legislation – Julie Piano

Julie

There is no new significant update to report on WIOA at this time. At this point in time, the staff are - attending several webinars. On January 18, 2015 the USDOL will publish a Notice of Proposal Rule Making. As more information becomes available, updates will be provided to everyone.

Kevin

The State of New Jersey is in the process of introducing six or seven planning committees for WIOA. The committees will consist of one WIB Director and other local staff. In some cases, staff from LWD will be chairing the committees. There will be five or six areas that will be looked at in terms of the One Stop and other areas. The Implementation Plan for WIOA will be available in February or March 2015. The regulations that will be out in January 2015 will be nothing more than the Legislation already written.

WorkFirst Update – John Ross

Relevant WFNJ Statistics (attached) were released for the months of September and October, 2014. The Participation Rate, which had increased (6%) since the last meeting was discussed in terms of the factors that contribute to the monthly volatility when compared on a monthly basis. Continued efforts to boost the Participation by the Board of Social Services and the One Stop Vendors were addressed. Both Jean Zwingli and John Ross as well as the One Stop's Deputy Managers, Lori Miranda and Diane Seavers, will attend a Work Session with five other Counties to discuss best practices.

Transportation Grants:

Block Grant through NJ Dept of Human Services/DFD: \$211,890.00 has been approved by the Middlesex County Board of Freeholders and is pending Approval by the State of New Jersey.

WorkFirst New Jersey Middlesex County September/October 2014

TANF

Referrals	454
New Enrollments	286
Show Rate	63%
Total Served	706
Placements	50
Participation Rate	24.4%
Engagement	110
Reengagement	138
Total Contacts	493

GA/SNAP

Referrals	734
New Enrollments	328
Show Rate	44%
Total Served:	1,338
Placements:	42

Open Discussion/Other Business

➤ **Kevin**

- Congratulations to MCBOS staff, John Ross, Julie Piano and staff for their hard work and progress.
- A letter was received from SETC indicating last year that we met or exceeded our WIA performance measures.
- The county's new website is officially launched, but still needs work to enhance the contents.

➤ **Julie**

- If any members have any recommendations on how to make the meetings more effective, please contact Julie at (732)745-3959 or email her at julie.piano@dol.state.nj.us. Suggestions are welcomed.

➤ **George J. Brokaw**

- The program is designed to get TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) recipients into the workforce. Any inquiries or questions should still be directed to Mr. Brokaw. If anyone has questions or concerns please call (908) 965-3956 or send an email to george.brokaw@dol.state.nj.us for additional information.

Adjournment

The next One Stop Operations/WorkFirst Collaborative Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 1:30pm. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Information/Handout Distributed to Members

➤ **Julie Piano**

- Flyer - Interested in Occupational Training at no cost to you? – updated website <http://mcworkforce.co.middlesex.nj.us/workforce/>
- Meeting Dates for 2015
- WIOA Information and Questions
- LWD Workforce Development Programs

➤ **John Ross**

- WFNJ September/October 2014 Report